

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EXCON

E.O. 1152: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, ENRG, GW, UR, UK

SUBJECT: GERMAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO USSR

1. UK EMBASSY MINISTER CORTAZZI INFORMED DAS GLITMAN
APRIL 23 THAT HMG PLANS TO LIFT UK RESERVATION IN COCOM
TO PROPOSED FEDREP NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR USSRIN
APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS PROVIDED FEDREP CAN ASSURE IT
HAS DONE ITS BEST TO PERSUADE SOVIETS TO ACCEPT INTERNA-
TIONAL SAFEGUARDS. UK CONTINUES TO HAVE SERIOUSCONCERN
OVER SAFEGUARDS QUESTION FROM STANDPOINT OF NON-
PROLIFERATION POLICY, BUT CONSIDERS THAT GERMAN INTENTION
TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT AND SOVIET
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DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS DESPITE FEDREP EFFORTS

MAKES IT UNREASONABLE TO CONTINUE RESERVATION ON CASE IN COCOM, PARTICULARLY SINCE UK DOES NOT SHARE USRESERVATIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPOSED TRANSACTION. SINCE FRENCH HAVE LIFTED RESERVATION THIS WOULD LEAVE US AS ONLY COUNTRY IN RESERVE. ACCORDINGLY UK WISHED TO CONCERT THEIR ACTION WITH US AND WOULD WELCOME US VIEWS.

2. GLITMAN ASKED WHY UK WAS PROPOSING TO ACT AT THIS TIME SINCE US HAS HAD NO RECENT INDICATION OF FEDREP PRESSURE. AS OF MID-MARCH USSR WAS REPORTED STILL TO BE NEGOTIATING ON ROUTING AND OTHER ASPECTS WITH GDR AND IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THERE COULD BE NEW DEVELOPMENTS

BEFORE JUNE MEETING OF GERMAN-SOVIET ECONOMIC COMMISSION. MOREOVER, WE WERE STILL AWAITING RESPONSES TO A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS PUT TO FRG IN JANUARY. NOTE: SUBSEQUENTLY ON APRIL 25 FEDREP EMBASSY DELIVERED DETAILED REPLIES TO JANUARY QUESTIONS WHICH WE ARE STUDYING.

3. CORTAZZI WAS NOT CERTAIN WHY HMG FELT IT NECESSARY TO MOVE AT THIS TIME BEYOND THE BELIEF THAT THERE WAS NO VALID STRATEGIC BASIS FOR DELAYING COCOM ACTION ONCE THE SAFEGUARDS ISSUE HAD BEEN DEALT WITH. HE SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE IN LONDON.

4. GLITMAN SUGGESTED THE UK ALSO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE OF DELAYING LIFTING THE UK RESERVATION IN COCOM IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE GERMANS WITH SOME SUPPORT IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON SAFEGUARDS OR RELATED ASSURANCES, IF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS SEEM REALISTIC.

5. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN CORTAZZI HAS CONSULTED LONDON. KISSINGER

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